

Appl. No. **10/598,165**

Amdt. dated September. 7, 2009

Reply to Office action of August 7, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 98 (Canceled)

Claim 99 (Previously presented). A method for facilitating the mating of members of a plurality of garments the mated members forming a matched set wherein the method comprises:–

- providing an identifiable location to place a first and or second member of a first matched set;

- providing an identifiable location to place a first and or second member of a second matched set;

- inputting into an electrically operable device identifying information associated with a member;

- processing the member identifying information;

- outputting a signal from an electrically operable device facilitating user determination of the identifiable location to place said member;

wherein said garments preferably comprise socks and a matched set preferably comprises a pair of socks.

Claim 100 (Previously presented). The method for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 99, wherein the identifiable location related to at least one member of the first matched set is distinct to the identifiable location related to at least one member of the second matched set.

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Claim 101 (Previously presented). The method for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 99 wherein at least one identifiable location is identified by an identifier that is human readable, said location identifier preferably comprising at least one of indicia, shapes, colours, images.

Claim 102 (Previously presented). The method to mating members as claimed in claim 99 wherein the location to place said member is identified by an electrically operable indicator and preferably wherein said indicator is proximal to said location.

Claim 103 (Previously presented). The method for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 102 wherein a first electrically operable indicator is associable with a first location to place one at least members of a first matching set and a second electrically operable indicator is associable with a second location to place one at least members of a second matching set.

Claim 104 (Previously presented). The method for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 103 wherein the first indicator is operable to alter state in response to an electrically operable device receiving information associated with a member of the first matching set and or the second indicator is operable to alter state in response to an electrically operable device receiving information associated with a member of the second matching set.

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Claim 105 (Previously presented). The method for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 99 wherein the identifiable location related to one at least members of a first matching set is associable with a first person and the identifiable location related to one at least members of a second matching set is associable with a second person.

Claim 106 (Previously presented). The method for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 99 wherein a first electrically operable indicator associated with a first identifiable location facilitates the transfers of at least one said member to a second identifiable location and preferably wherein said transfer is from a temporary storage arrangement to an extended storage arrangement.

Claim 107 (Previously presented). The method for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 106 wherein a second electrically operable indicator associated with said second identifiable location facilitates said transfer.

Claim 108 (Previously presented). An electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members of a plurality of socks the mated members forming a matched set.

Claim 109 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 108 further comprising a portable electronic device for receiving identifying information from said members and for electronically outputting information facilitating the mating of members.

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Claim 110 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 108 wherein said system is for use with members in a user environment.

Claim 111 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 108 further arranged to receive information pertaining to identifying information coupled to the member.

Claim 112 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 111 wherein the identifying information comprises a bar code, indicia, shape or colour, and preferably wherein the identifying information is coupled to the sock by at least one of:

- printing,

- woven into the fabric of the sock,

- a device attached to the sock.

Claim 113 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 111 wherein the received information comprises at least one of: voice input, keyboard entry, selection from a means for display, pointing device, wireless input, electronic imaging.

Claim 114 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 111 wherein the received information is manually entered and or electronically read into the system.

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Claim 115 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 114 wherein the identifying information is electronically read by RFID or the transfer of power and data on a single conductor.

Claim 116 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 108 arranged to receive first identifying information pertaining to a first member and second identifying information pertaining to a second member, wherein said first and second members are a mating pair, and said first and second identifying information is stored in computer memory and the system preferably further arranged to associate said stored first and second identifying information.

Claim 117 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 116 further arranged to receive at a subsequent time said first and or second identifying information and to process the subsequently received identifying information with the previously stored identifying information.

Claim 118 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 117 further comprising an output signal responsive to said processing, said output signal facilitating mating of the member associated with said identifying information.

Claim 119 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 118 wherein the output signal facilitates activation of an electrically operable indicator associated with a location for a user to place said member.

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Claim 120 (Previously presented). The electrically operable system for facilitating the mating of members as claimed in claim 108 further comprising at least one of: sock ID means, passive sock storage means, active sock storage means, sock location ID means, sock storage means, vacant sock location detector means, sock control means, sock ID acquisition means, sock ID library means, sock ID support information, and or active sock processing means.

Claim 121 (Previously presented). The method of coupling identifying information to a sock wherein the information is for use with an electrically operable system arranged to facilitate the mating of members of a plurality of socks the mated members forming a matched set.

Claim 122 (Previously presented). An item of bedding for sorting and or mating members of a plurality of members, the mated members forming a matched set wherein the item of bedding is arranged to provide a first signal for association with a first member and a second signal for association with a second member and preferably wherein: said members comprise socks, and or said bedding includes at least one of blanket, bed sheet, doona cover, or bedspread.

Claim 123 (Previously presented). An item of bedding as claimed in claim 122 wherein the first signal is provided by a first electrically operable indicator and the second signal is provided by a second electrically operable indicator, both indicators coupled to the item of bedding.

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Claim 124 (Previously presented). An item of bedding as claimed in claim 123 wherein the first signal is for activation in response to the provision of information related to a first member and the second indicator is for activation in response to the provision of information related to a second member.

Claims 125 – 130 (Canceled)